

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

INVITING

THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESS

TO

The Exposed Situation of the Inhabitants of the District of Columbia,

IN REGARD TO

Contagious Diseases from Abroad.

FEBRUARY 17, 1825.

Read, and referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1825.

THE LONDON
STATIONERS' COMPANY
PRINTED BY
J. B. L. LONDON

MESSAGE

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

OF MARCH 1878

CONTAINING STATEMENTS FROM THE

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I invite the attention of Congress to the peculiar situation of this District, in regard to the exposure of its inhabitants, to contagious diseases from abroad, against which it is thought that adequate provision should now be made. The exposure being common to the whole District, the regulation should apply to the whole, to make which Congress alone possesses the adequate power. That the regulation should be made by Congress, is the more necessary, from the consideration, that this being the seat of Government, its protection against such diseases must form one of its principal objects.

JAMES MONROE.

WASHINGTON, February 17, 1825.

MEMORIAL.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

The Memorial of the undersigned, in behalf of the Board of Health of the city of Washington and town of Alexandria, and of the Mayor of Georgetown, respectfully represents: That, being charged with the duty of providing the best means in their power for the preservation of the health of the said city and towns, the population of which is rapidly increasing; and seeing the increased intercourse between them and the West Indies, and other unhealthy climates, during the sickly seasons, and, consequently, the danger to which their inhabitants are exposed by the introduction of malignant contagious diseases, feel it their duty to invite your attention to the subject, and respectfully to ask that you will cause a suitable site to be procured within or contiguous to the District of Columbia, and proper buildings erected for the maintenance and enforcement of quarantine regulations. Before the cession of the county of Alexandria by Virginia, that state had provided by law (except as to suitable buildings) for the enforcement of quarantine regulations at Alexandria, and had defrayed the expense of it out of the public treasury. But since that period, this has been discontinued of course, and the town of Alexandria left to make, out of its slender resources, the best provision it could, not only for its own preservation from contagious diseases, but for that also of the other portions of the District, until, within the last three years, they have been relieved from that burthen by the adoption of a temporary quarantine establishment under your orders, through the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury. Your memorialists are persuaded that the plan heretofore pursued, that of anchoring a hulk in the river, or a hut on the shore, was not designed to be long continued, because they are found to answer very few of the purposes required, and, especially, that they afford no accommodation to sick persons, whose lives can only, in many instances, be saved by being landed, and properly nursed and attended, nor security to the property which often must be landed for the purpose of ventilation and purification.

Your memorialists, therefore, most respectfully pray that you will cause such measures to be taken, as to you shall seem meet, for the establishment of a suitable quarantine for the District of Columbia.

R. C. WEIGHTMAN,

Mayor of Washington City.

JOHN COX,

Mayor of Georgetown.

HENRY HUNT,

Pres't Board Health, Washington.

JOHN ROBERTS,

Mayor of Alexandria.

ANT. CHS. CAZENOVE,

Pres't Board Health, Alexandria.